



# Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> The Official Newsletter of the State Library of Iowa

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March/April 2003



## Pfizenmaier named to Iowa Commission of Libraries

Pam Pfizenmaier, director of Educational Telecommunications at Iowa Public Television (IPTV), has been named to the Iowa Commission of Libraries as the Department of Education's representative. She replaces Dwight Carlson, who recently retired.

Pfizenmaier has been at IPTV since 1992 where she has served as the Iowa Star School's project director. Before joining IPTV, she was Iowa's Ambassador to Education in 1990-91 and Iowa's Teacher of the Year in 1990. Pfizenmaier was an elementary teacher for 19 years, and holds an endorsement as an educational media specialist.

"I am honored to be able to serve on the Commission," said Pfizenmaier. "Hopefully I can repay some of the service that local public libraries have provided to me."

"Our libraries have been long-time supporters of my formal and informal learning. While I was completing my doctorate and dissertation, I was teaching full-time in a small Iowa community. My local librarian assisted me in seeking materials and using interlibrary loan so I could receive books from larger libraries for my research. Without the local public library assistance, obtaining a degree would have been a nearly impossible task," Pfizenmaier said.

In addition to her duties at IPTV, where she oversees the educational mission of the network, Pfizenmaier is a member of the Education Telecommunications Council and has served on the boards of the Iowa Distance Learning Association, the Iowa Math and Science Coalition and the Iowa Principal's Academy. Most recently, she was asked by Ted Stilwill, director of the Iowa Department of Education, to serve as the director of the soon-to-be established Iowa Virtual Academy.

## Boone area groups partner to teach parents valuable reading skills

A popular program devoted to teaching parents and child care providers reading skills to use with children was the result of Boone-area organizations concerned about the well being of their youngest citizens.

"Teaming Together for Children," which meets monthly, includes representatives from Ericson Public Library, area schools, the local Area Education Agency, Iowa State University Extension, Lutheran Social Services, Youth and Shelter Services, Boone County Cares, and others groups.

According to Barb Rardin, children's librarian at Ericson Public Library, "Anyone who works with children and families is welcome."

"We do a lot of sharing about programs and a lot of brain storming. It is super terrific networking," she said.

"The Family Storyteller Program" is one result of the group's endeavors. The program teams parents with child care experts who demonstrate parent-child reading skills.

The hour and a half program kicked off in February and participants met once a week through March at the public library. Parents and child care providers attended with one three- to six-year-old youngster. If other siblings attended, they spent time with students enrolled in a Boone High School parenting class.

Rardin said program goals are to:

- stimulate verbal interaction,
- create an interest in reading,

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## Boone area groups partner to teach parents valuable reading skills

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- encourage parent/child reading,
- provide opportunities for reading, and
- provide access to reading materials.

The program hopes to encourage a love of reading and writing in children, help them feel closer to their parents, increase their language skills, and do better in school.

Parents and care givers learn how simple things like talking about the author or explaining what an illustrator does can lead to interesting discussions with children. They may talk about how a situation in a story mirrors things happening in their own lives. They are taught that reading slowly allows children an opportunity to ask questions. And, as Rardin noted, the program is bringing new people to the library.

"The program has introduced people to the library. We now have families coming in who had not been here before," she said.

Rardin said "Teaming Together for Children" is already making plans for next year's program and will target parents who have children in Head Start.

## New virtual backup reference for librarians doing a brisk business

Librarians who need assistance answering customers' questions now have access to Virtual Backup Reference (VBR). According to Karen Burns, administrator of the Southwest Iowa Library Service Area and coordinator of VBR, business has been brisk.

Librarians can simply log on to VBR and "talk" live to a reference librarian, who can also send webpages "live" while chatting. Twenty-three libraries from around the state have volunteered to staff VBR from their own desks. For now, VBR is only available to Iowa public librarians.

When a librarian logs on as a customer, she will be asked for contact information and the library's Locator code. This verifies the person is a librarian and will be used to send information back later if the question cannot be answered immediately. The reference interview is confidential and the transcript is immediately deleted from the system.

According to Burns, the project gives all participants a chance to experience virtual reference service from both sides of the reference "desk."

"The methods public librarians have always used are still available, including submitting questions to LSAs via phone, fax or e-mail," said Burns. "But we hope librarians will try this service next time they have a question they can't answer locally."

VBR is available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at [www.ilsa.lib.ia/VBR/VBRlogin.htm](http://www.ilsa.lib.ia/VBR/VBRlogin.htm). (Due to server problems, the site is temporarily located at [www.silo.lib.ia.us/swilsa](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/swilsa).) The project is funded by the Southwest Iowa Library Service Area with partial Library Services and Technology Act funding through a grant administered by the State Library.

Libraries in the following communities have volunteered to answer reference questions: Ames, Atlantic, Bettendorf, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Clarinda, Decorah, Dubuque, Harlan, Hawarden, Laurens, Pella, Shenandoah, Sioux Center, Storm Lake, Urbandale, Waterloo, and Waverly. Central Iowa Library Service Area, Northwest Iowa Library Service Area, Northeast Iowa Library Service Area, Southwest Iowa Library Service Area and the State Library are also participating.



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## Certification update

Congratulations to the following public library staff certified for the first time through the State Library's Iowa Certification Program for Public Librarians.

**Christina Bodensteiner**, West Union

**Wendy Chesnes**, Norway

**Lori Eekhoff**, Britt and Rowan

**Rhonda Frevert**, Burlington

**Nancy Nail**, Clarion

**Jo Pearson**, Cedar Rapids

**Susan Peterson**, Zearing

**Angela Shephard**, Dike

**Candace Tischer**, Elliott

**Marcia Wheeler**, Jewell

## Special pricing on Russian, Spanish books

Libraries may now order customized sets of Russian and Spanish books, audio books, DVDs and videos at substantial savings with complete cataloging and shipping included.

Working with Iowa libraries, OCLC is offering a special Language Sets group program to 20 or more Iowa libraries. For a minimum commitment of \$100, libraries can select both print and non-print adult and children's materials in Spanish or Russian. OCLC will negotiate group purchases and will then catalog and ship the materials to libraries at no additional charge.

For more information, go to [www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/Discounts/iowa-group-spanish-and-russian.htm](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/Discounts/iowa-group-spanish-and-russian.htm).

The deadline to sign up is May 1. Libraries will not be billed until after July 2003. For more information, contact Beth Marie Quanbeck, Central Iowa Library Service Area, (515) 223-7709; [bquanbeck@cilsa.lib.ia.us](mailto:bquanbeck@cilsa.lib.ia.us).

## Important Dates - 2003

### May

FirstSearch agreements due at Central Iowa Library Service Area

May 2 - ILA/ACRL Spring Conference - Dubuque

May 9 - Iowa Center for the Book Advisory Council - West Branch

May 12-13 - ALA National Library Legislative Day - Washington, DC

### June

June 17 - Commission meeting - Des Moines

June 19-25 - ALA Annual Conference - Toronto

June 30 - Direct State Aid funds expended

June 30 - Library Infrastructure funds expended

June 30 - 2002 Partnership Grants / Grant project completion date

### July

Registration for Fall Public Library Management 1 & 2

July 1 - 2003 e-rate discounts begin

July 4 - Fourth of July holiday

July 31 - Direct State Aid Final Report due - State Library

July 31 - Library Infrastructure Report due - State Library

July 31 - Open Access Annual Report due - State Library

July 31 - Access Plus Annual Report due - State Library

July 31 - 2003 LSTA Partnership Grant claims and final report due - State Library

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## Clive offers Reading Rewards Program

Clive Public Library is offering a Reading Rewards Program to customers of all ages as a way to help celebrate the many ways reading improves lives through education and emotional enrichment.

Every adult or young adult who turns in five brief reviews of books they like for the "Patron Recommendations" section in the library will be presented with a hardcover Book Lover's Diary.

Library patrons who submit a list of 50 books they have read will receive a gold library card. Library patrons who submit a list of 100 books they have read will receive a platinum library card.



## State Library participates in launch of Patient Information Program

The American College of Physicians - American Society of Internal Medicine Foundation (ACP-ASIM Foundation) has teamed with the National Library of Medicine (NLM) to create the "Health Information Prescription" program. Now, doctors throughout Iowa will have customized prescription pads that they can use to point patients to online health information in NLM's MEDLINEplus database ([www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov).)

This information prescription program will work hand in hand with HealthInfoIowa ([www.healthinfoiowa.org](http://www.healthinfoiowa.org)), the State Library's easy-to-use, trustworthy health information site which links to MEDLINEplus and other medical and health information sources.

Kickoff of the "Health Information Prescription" program was April 7 at the State Library. It featured remarks by Iowa Senator Tom Harkin; Dr. Michael Kienzle, practicing physician and member of the ACP-ASIM Iowa chapter; Dr. Whitney Addington, chair, ACP-ASIM Foundation; and Dr. Donald Lindberg, director, NLM.

Said State Librarian Mary Wegner, "The fact that this press conference was held at the State Library highlights the important role librarians play in helping their library customers find and evaluate health information. We anticipate Iowans will soon be bringing their health prescriptions to local libraries."



*Dr. Michael Kienzle, Barb Corson (State Library) and Senator Harkin look at the results of a web search.*



*State Librarian Mary Wegner with Senator Tom Harkin*

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## Competencies identified for library directors and staff

A list of competencies for public library directors and staff has been developed by State Library and Library Service Area staff.

According to Sandy Dixon, State Library, the competencies can be used by public library boards when they hire a library director, by public library directors when they hire staff, or by librarians as they decide which continuing education courses they need.

The competencies are available on both the State Library's continuing education web pages ([www.silo.lib.ia.us./for-ia-libraries/continuing-ed/index.html](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us./for-ia-libraries/continuing-ed/index.html)), or the trustees web pages ([www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/Trustees/index.htm](http://www.silo.lib.ia.us/for-ia-libraries/Trustees/index.htm).)

## Good turn out for ILA/IEMA Legislative Day

More than 150 librarians, media specialists and library trustees were on hand for the joint Iowa Library Association/Iowa Educational Media Association Legislative Day on March 12. Many met at the State Library prior to a reception in the law library to hear from representatives of ILA, IEMA and their lobbyists.



*It was standing room only during the legislative briefing held before the reception. Librarians heard from ILA Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, Dawn Hayslett, and ILA lobbyists.*



*First Lady Christie Vilsack spoke with incoming Iowa Educational Media Association President Dale Vande Haar*



*Legislators and other guests got a demonstration of EBSCOhost from Kristin Steingreaber (left) of Southern Prairie AEA 15.*



*Rep. Mark Davitt visited with Linda Mack, director of the Waukee Public Library.*



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*The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invited and paid for staff from the State Library and Library Service Areas (LSAs) to visit Seattle, WA April 14-16 for program training classes. Staff were provided instruction on installation and technical support in order to help public libraries who will be receiving new Gates computers in coming months. From left are Barb Shultz, North Central LSA, Eunice Reisberg, Northeast LSA, Judy Jones and Mary Wegner, State Library, Bonnie McKewon, Northwest LSA, Karen Burns, Southwest LSA, and Gerry Rowland, State Library.*

## Fort Dodge holds unique All Iowa Reads event

When a convention of the Corn Belt Power Cooperative was held April 8 in Fort Dodge, representatives made sure spouses who were not attending meetings had fun. They purchased each of them a copy of the book all Iowa's reading, *Peace Like a River*, and invited them to a book discussion at the public library.

The 40 who attended were greeted by library director LaWanda Roudebush, First Lady Christie Vilsack, and Sara Frasher from Iowa Public Television who taped the discussion for a future episode of "Living in Iowa."

According to Roudebush, most had not yet read the book but enjoyed the overview she and Vilsack provided. "People were asking the folks at Corn Belt to have another book discussion at their conference next year," said Roudebush.



## Kohler receives government documents librarian honor



Carolyn Kohler, head of the University Libraries government documents department, has been named the recipient of the 2003 James Bennett Childs Award, presented by the American Library Association's (ALA) Government Documents Roundtable to honor someone who has made a significant lifetime contribution as a documents librarian. Childs was a well-known government publications bibliographer at the Library of Congress who published extensively in the 1930s-60s.

A charter member of the roundtable with more than 30 years experience as a government documents librarian, Kohler has worked with federal, international and state documents. She has been active as an officer in the organization and its groups, and helped form the Iowa Library Association's own Government Documents Roundtable, serving as its first chair. Kohler will receive the award at the ALA's annual meeting in Toronto in June.

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes February 25, 2003 - State Library, Des Moines (These minutes are considered draft until approved by the Iowa Commission of Libraries)

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Present: Dale Ross, Pam Bradley, Monica Gohlinghorst, Berta Van Ekeren

Visitors: Emily Navarre

Staff: Mary Wegner, Barbara Corson, Steve Cox, Sandy Dixon, Judy Jones, Gerry Rowland, Linda Robertson, Carol Simmons, Katherine Von Wald, Annette Wetteland

Ross called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Wegner introduced staff.

### **1.0 Set Agenda**

Agenda was set with one addition to 6.0 A 1, certification of community college nomination for trustee from North Central Library Service Area.

### **2.0 Approve Minutes**

Bradley moved to approve the minutes as recorded, Gohlinghorst seconded, motion carried.

### **3.0 Financial Report**

Cox reported that the federal and state budgets are on target with 50 percent of the federal and 53 percent of state funds being spent to date in the fiscal year. Van Ekeren asked where the biggest cuts were made. Cox and Wegner explained that major cuts were made in three areas: acquisition of materials, which have been reduced 70 percent over the last two years; in personnel, with two positions being eliminated at the beginning of FY03; and in the elimination of state money for the purchase of statewide databases and the cancellation of the Electric Library subscription. Bradley asked about the medical library's collections and Wegner said materials there were deeply cut but not eliminated. Cox shared a handout on EBSCOhost participation. 95.3 percent of the state's population has access to the database through their local libraries.

### **4.0 Communications**

#### A. Special Reports

1. Law Library Materials – Linda Robertson. Robertson shared a brief history of several valuable books owned by the law library. In February 2003, thanks to the knowledge of rare book contractor Phil Pirages, the most valuable single item in the Law Library collection, the 1490s volume titled STATHAM'S ABRIDGEMENT, was sold to a collector in San Francisco for \$45,000—the full appraisal value. The book, leather bound, printed on parchment in "law French" and hand annotated in Normandy French, the language of English law for several centuries after being introduced into England by William the Conqueror, was uncataloged and shelved with other English law materials in the library. The Law Library will receive the full amount—minus the 25% commission—to help support the law collection and other projects.

Ross commented on the condition of other books Robertson showed the Commission and wondered if there was any possibility of providing a climate-controlled room for their storage. Robertson and Wegner said they would investigate the possibility of such a room in the state library.

Robertson noted that the Law Library has recently added a new Westlaw informational database, and has notified attorneys working in state government about this additional resource.

#### 2. Center for the Book/All Iowa Reads – Katherine Von Wald

Von Wald reported on the ICN session February 4. There were 27 ICN sites, 16 of which were in public libraries. More than 100 people attended to discuss the All Iowa Reads book selection for 2003, "Peace Like a River." Christie Vilsack and Dale Ross led the discussion. The session was taped and the State Library has four copies to loan. The Center for the Book has asked local libraries to list their "Peace Like a River" programs on the All Iowa Reads section of the State Library's web site. Von Wald plans to have links from the Iowa Center for the Book web site, which is being developed, to other sites that have listings of Iowa authors. Ross asked if the book for next year had been chosen and Von Wald said the All Iowa Reads committee will develop criteria for next year's book in May and announce their selection at the Iowa Library Association conference in October.

#### B. Commission Reports

Ross reported that the CBS affiliate in Des Moines, KCCI-TV, had done a two minute report on HealthInIowa from the state medical library, at 10 p.m. Monday, February 24. Wegner and Corson were both featured. Ross reported on the January ALA Mid-winter Conference in Philadelphia, which both he and Wegner attended.

#### C. Library Service Areas Report – Emily Navarre

Navarre gave an overview of the Southeastern Library Service Area. She said that inadequate funding is a major concern, and that one of the biggest needs in her region is computer training for librarians. She also noted, however, that several libraries have web pages, including the smallest library. She said that many librarians are expected to work at minimum wage with small budgets, provide a wide range of information, and teach the public how to use computers and the Internet. Navarre would like to have county funding formulas changed to more equitably pay for services provided. She would also like to see more librarians skilled in technology.

#### D. State Librarian's Report

Wegner reported on the Gates Foundation grants. Several "Before Your Computer Arrives" workshops have been conducted. Computers will be installed starting this spring. Libraries will receive purchase orders to buy computers approximately eight weeks before Gates staff install them and train staff. Ross asked if this would help Iowa with high-speed Internet access and Rowland said nearly 70 percent will have it after the computers are installed. Several State Library and Library Service Area staff members will receive additional training from the Gates Foundation in April.

New editions of the trustee handbooks were sent to each library and board president. Dixon also sent a copy to the League of

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## Iowa Commission of Libraries - Minutes February 25, 2003 - State Library, Des Moines (Cont. from Pg. 7)

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Cities, which links to the online version from its web site. Cox reported that there has been an overwhelming response for more handbooks. Two thousand were originally ordered and more may need to be printed.

Wegner said she was proud to announce that Rowland had finished compiling all the statistical information from the first annual school library survey. Iowa is the first state to undertake this type of survey. Wetteland wrote an article about the survey in the State Library's newsletter and will investigate submitting articles to professional journals.

The Commission packet included a copy of a paycheck insert that went out to all state employees informing them of the availability of EBSCOhost resources. 250 new library cards were issued in the month following this publicity.

The National Library of Medicine will hold a press conference at the State Library on March 10 to announce a new information prescription program.

Technical Services and Information Services staff have moved from the west to the east wing of the building. The wooden information desk has been moved from ground floor to third floor.

Two positions in state documents have been filled. State Library staffer Margaret Noon was promoted to one of these positions and Karen Kemnitz, formerly with the library in the Department of Human Services, accepted the other position. Kemnitz' first day will be February 28.

Wetteland is developing an ad to be placed in the RAGBRAI rider's manual which will highlight public libraries along the route and let riders know that they will be open and offering email service.

Wegner described the financial situation with RoweCom. The company, which operates as a journal broker, took orders and money from libraries for journal subscriptions, then failed to provide the materials. At least twenty-six Iowa libraries have been affected by RoweCom's default.

### 5.0 Public Comment

None

### 6.0 Action Items

#### A. Appointment of Trustees for Northeast and Southwest Iowa Library Service Areas

Bradley moved to appoint Tom McGlaughlin to the Northeast Iowa Library Service Area board. Van Ekeren seconded the motion, motion carried. Van Ekeren moved to appoint Lillian Nichols to the Southwest Iowa Library Service Area board. Gohlinghorst seconded the motion, motion carried. Gohlinghorst moved to accept the nomination for a community college trustee, Jeffery Pilz, to the North Central Library Service Area board. Bradley seconded, motion carried.

#### B. Bylaws Review

Ross appointed Van Ekeren and Gohlinghorst to the Bylaws Subcommittee at the December Commission meeting. Van Ekeren moved to accept the bylaws as they stand. Bradley seconded, motion carried. The bylaws will reflect this motion.

#### C. Appointment of Subcommittee to Evaluate State Librarian

Ross asked Bradley to serve with him on the subcommittee to evaluate the state librarian. Bradley accepted. Ross will ask Commissioner Eldon Huston to serve as well.

### 7.0 Discussion Items

#### A. Legislative Strategies

1. State Librarian Presentation to Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Wegner met with the Appropriations Subcommittee in early February to talk about State Library services and programs; Library Service Areas; the Enrich Iowa programs including Direct State Aid, Open Access, and Access Plus; and the Library Infrastructure program.

2. HF 58 (Reinstates school librarian requirement). Ross explained the importance of having certified school librarians. House File 58 is an attempt to reinstate the requirement that each school have a certified librarian. The bill is currently in subcommittee. Ross asked commission members to contact their representatives and senators in an effort to get the bill on the floor for debate.

3. Iowa Library Association Legislative Day – March 12, 2003. The Iowa Library Association's Legislative Day is March 12 with a briefing at 2:30 p.m. in room 310 of the State Library, followed by a reception at the law library in the Capitol at 4 p.m. The reception will include demonstrations of EBSCO by Kristin Steingreaber, Media Specialist at Southern Prairie AEA 15.

#### B. State Libraries and State Legislatures – Trends and Strategies

The Commission discussed funding challenges facing state libraries around the country.

### 8.0 Adjournment

Gohlinghorst moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Bradley seconded, motion Carried.

NEXT MEETING: April 22, 2003